THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) During last round of bilateral air services consultation between India and United Arab Emirates (Dubai) held in Delhi on 19-20th April, 2001, Hyderabad has been granted as an additional point of call to the designated airline of Dubai, i.e., Emirates with a separate entitlement of 2000 seats per week. Capacity entitlement for the designated airline of India has also been enhanced by 2000 seats per week. This was done with a view to reduce congestion and to provide better connectivity to the newly declared international airport of Hyderabad. Emirates operations between Dubai and Hyderabad would be covered by their existing pool agreement with Air India.

Permission to private scheduled carriers

3064. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Jet seeks level playing field for private carrier" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 28th July, 2001;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government would allow private scheduled carrier to operate on International and Regional routes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There is no plan at present to allow private domestic airlines to operate scheduled services on international routes including regional routes.